

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/715,703

Examiner

Rodney H. Bonck

Applicant(s)

TIESLER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received September 12, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16 and 18-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 06/23/05.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09/12/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

The following action is in response to the amendment received September 12, 2005.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In line 19 of claim 31, "30" has been changed to – (30) --.

In line 2 of claim 32, "30" has been changed to – (30) --.

In line 2 of claim 33, "30" has been changed to – (30) --.

The above changes have been made to avoid an objection to claims 31-33 for having a reference number in the claims that is not in parentheses.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16 and 18-33 are allowed. In accordance with MPEP 608.01(n)IV, claims 16, 18-26, 28, 27, and 29-33 will be renumbered for printing as claims 1-17, respectively.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a clutch arrangement as defined in claim 16, particularly wherein the common disc carrier is a sheet metal shaped part in which the contact section, against which the discs of the radially outer disc set are pressed, is an integral part thereof and is formed by a deforming process.

The art of record also fails to show or teach a clutch arrangement as defined in claim 31 wherein the contact section, against which the discs of the radially outer disc set are pressed, comprises a contiguous end portion of the common disc carrier which extends axially beyond the separate guard ring to form an integral, radially outwardly deformed axial end of the common disc carrier.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner Comment

In view of applicants' remarks set forth on pages 5-8 of the response filed September 12, 2005, the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) are withdrawn, and the claims are deemed allowable for the reasons set forth above under Reasons for Allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Receipt is acknowledged of the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 12, 2005. The cited documents have been considered. Note that two

documents were lined-through because they have already been considered. It is further noted that the two German documents listed, which have now both been considered, do not qualify as prior art based on their date of publication.

Drawings

In the Office action of February 1, 2005, the drawings were objected to and it was pointed out that, to avoid abandonment, applicant must submit corrected drawings. The response of May 5, 2005, applicants submitted a proposed change but no corrected drawings. In the Office action of June 23, 2005, the proposed correction was approved and the drawing objection was repeated. Applicants were again notified that, to avoid abandonment, corrected drawings must be submitted in response to the Office action. No replacement sheets correcting the drawings were submitted in the response of September 12, 2005. Corrected drawings are again required. Note that failure to timely comply will result in abandonment of this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rodney H. Bonck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

rhb
October 1, 2005